



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC RELEASES NEW STUDY ON TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERSHIP ON AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND OFF-RESERVATION TRUST LANDS

Washington, D.C. – As part of its Indian Telecommunications Initiatives and its ongoing dialogue with the National Congress of American Indians Telecommunications Subcommittee, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released a study on telephone subscribership on American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands, presenting subscribership statistics based on the 2000 Decennial Census.

Statistics from the 2000 Decennial Census estimated that 67.9% of all American Indian households living on American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands: Federal had telephone service. Comparable data from the 1990 Decennial Census estimated 46.6% of such American Indian households had telephone service. The study also shows subscribership levels for Federal and State American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands, and State and Tribal Designated Statistical Areas, as well as each tribe's penetration rates in individual states.

An important goal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is to preserve and advance universal service. The 1996 Act provides that “[c]onsumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high[-]cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services . . .” Through its regulations and policy initiatives, the FCC will continue its endeavors to work with federally-recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages to ensure that tribes and persons residing on tribal lands have access to telecommunications and information services.

This study is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Call Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This study can also be downloaded from the FCC-State Link Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

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